



TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
TR-6009 (112713-1000)

Re Application Of: **Hurst et al.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
10/783,379	February 19, 2004	Walter Aughenbaugh	29200	1745	6415

Title: **SOLVENTLESS PLASTIC BONDING OF MEDICAL DEVICES AND CONTAINER COMPONENTS THROUGH INFRARED HEATING**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Supplemental Response to Restriction Requirement (2 pgs.); and return receipt postcard.

in the above identified application.

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Dated: **March 21, 2006**

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

This Paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 21, 2006
regarding the above-referenced patent application.

This Paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on February 21, 2006. This Paper is submitted within one month of the Office Action mail date and is therefore timely filed. The Office Action is a Restriction Requirement and requires restriction between six alleged groups of invention: Group I (Claims 1-9, 11-19, and 21-58); Group II (Claims 10 and 20); and Group III (Claims 59-76). Applicants reiterate their election, without traverse, of Group I, claims 1-9, 11-19, and 21-58.

The Office Action further requires an election from six species alleged to be “mutually exclusive embodiments.” Applicants respectfully traverse the species election as the Group I claims are connected in design, operation and effect. Each of the independent claims of Group I (claims 1, 11, 21, 41, and 51) recite a method for assembling a medical device that includes 1) providing first and second articles of polymeric material, 2) exposing the articles to IR energy, and 3) bonding the first and second articles. Thus, the practice of any one claim is related and connected to the practice of any other independent claim. In other words, the practice of any independent claim in Group I does not exclude the practice of any other Group I claim.

In the spirit of responsiveness, Applicants elect, with traverse, the following species. Applicants further note that claim 1 is generic to Group I.

1. The species of first and second articles as respective first and second tubings. Claims 1-3, 5, 11-13, 15, 21-28, 30, 35-51, and 56-58 read on this election.
2. The species wherein carbon black is the infrared absorbing pigment. Claims 1-22, 24-58 read on this election.
3. The species of printing the pigment onto at least one of the articles. Claims 1-23 and 25-58 read on this election.
4. The species wherein the shield is made of polytetrafluoroethylene. Claims 1-35 and 37-58 read on this election.
5. The species wherein the IR energy source is an infrared lamp. Claims 1-39 and 41-58 read on this election.

6. The species wherein infrared absorbing pigment is applied to either one of the articles. Claims 1-42 and 44-58 read on this election.

Applicants have established that the Group I claims are connected in design, operation, and effect. Accordingly, no undue search burden would be placed upon the Examiner if the species election was withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the species election be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

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Dated: March 21, 2006